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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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Jordan: King Husayn considers the UN resolution on the Middle East a victory for Nasir since he believes it handed the problems of Jordan and Lebanon back to the Nasir-dominated Arab League. Husayn indicated to the American chargé on 22 August that unless the United States committed itself to a broad program of economic, military and financial aid prior to the expected departure of UN Secretary General Hammarskjöld from Jordan at the end of this week, he would accept the resignation of the pro-Western Rifai government effective 15 September and ask within a week or ten days that British troops be withdrawn by 1 October.

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DAILY BRIEF

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Developments in Jordan

King Husayn of Jordan told the American Embassy on 22 August that he considered the recent UN resolution on the Near East a victory for Nasir since it handed the problems of Jordan and Lebanon back to the Nasir-dominated Arab League. Earlier the same day Prime Minister Rifai said that effective implementation of the resolution would depend largely on UAR good faith, and that he felt Nasir would continue to pursue a policy of subversion.

Rifai concluded that the United States' unwillingness to meet Jordan's request for a mutual defense pact and extensive military and economic aid made it necessary to change Jordan's government and bring its foreign policy into line with its Arab neighbors. He also concluded that the British had decided to sacrifice King Husayn in order to permit Jordan to reach accommodation with its Arab neighbors, and that Jordan's new government would evolve into a republic oriented toward the UAR and Iraq. Rifai said he intended to resign effective 15 September, but would first ask British troops to withdraw by the end of September.

King Husayn told the American Embassy that unless the United States committed itself to a broad program of economic, military, and financial aid before the departure of UN Secretary General Hammarskjold from Jordan, presumably at the end of this week, he would accept the resignation of the pro-Western Rifai government and ask that British troops be withdrawn.

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Rifai announced on 23 August that Jordan was willing to resume diplomatic relations with the UAR and Iraq, and Palestinian Dr. Husayn Khalidi has informed King Husayn of his readiness to head a government, presumably of a transitional nature.

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